

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

1. Rail Movements in Slovakia
2. Railroad Security Measures

DATE DISTR.

23 March 1953

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REFERENCES

BY CABLE
THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. On 2 March 1953, a military freight train of 55 cars carrying ammunition, guarded by Czech soldiers, departed from Zemianske Kostolany (Q 49/T 96) for Sturova (P 48/Y 66), where Hungarian soldiers took over the guard and the train proceeded into Hungary. Reportedly up to three similar trains are being dispatched weekly. Source states that military depots are located in the valley near Zemianske Kostolany.
2. Three rail movements were observed at Puchov (P 50/O 61) during the month of February, going in the direction of Zilina (Q 50/O 92). They totalled 138 cars, of which 35 carried personnel, 78 carried trucks and some personnel, and 16 carried tanks.
3. Tunnels on the Cadca (Q 50/X 64) - Zilina - Kosice railroad line were guarded by soldiers armed with sub-machine guns during March 1953. The Prague-Ziskov tunnel was under similar guard. Guards prevent unauthorized persons from approaching.

Comments:

- 25X1A 1. The Novaky Chemical Works, National Corporation, is located at Novaky (Q 49/T 97) in the valley near Zemianske Kostolany. An ammunition depot is also located at Novaky. It is possible that the train carried chemical ammunition.
2. This may tend to confirm the information, concerning another region in Czechoslovakia, [redacted]

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SOURCE
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1. On 28 January 1953 about 300 PS men arrived from Bohemia in Bratislava-Patrzalka. This new contingent of PS allowed more effective guarding of the Slovakian-Austrian frontier in the Bratislava area.
2. The cloister belonging to the Salesian Order in Bratislava was confiscated and is being turned into military barracks.
3. Wooden watchtowers, about 5 meters high, occupied by soldiers with machine guns were observed from a train in the industrial areas of Adamov (P50/ N 11), Usti nad Orlici (P50/ N 18), and Pardubice (051/ N 79).¹ The K.Y. Voroshilov Works in Dubnica nad Vahom (P49/ T 69) is guarded from outside by soldiers who have antiaircraft shelters near their positions.
4. On 3 March 1953 the stores of impregnated timber belonging to the national enterprise Bucina at Zvolen (Q49/ C 74) were destroyed by fire. The plant is producing telephone poles and railroad ties. All the destroyed products were those treated with carbolineum and the fire could not be put out. The damage amounts to many millions of Czech crowas. According to rumors it was an act of sabotage. The investigation has brought no results as yet.

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Comment: It is possible that the watchtowers were erected in forced labor compounds adjacent to plants in question.

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